

Atty. Docket No. JP919990027US1
(590.049)

REMARKS

Applicant and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1, 8, 9, 15, and 16 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. Claims 3, 6, 8, 10 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Simonoff. Claims 3, 8, 10, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simonoff in view of Suda. Claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simonoff in view of Itakura.

Claims 3, 6, 8, 10 and 15 have been rewritten to address the formal issues raised by the Office and it is believed these issues have now been obviated. Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment. It should be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

The present invention broadly contemplates identifying the owner of an object that is currently being drawn on a collaboration work area, or an

Atty. Docket No. JP919990027US1
(590.049)

object that has already been drawn on the collaboration work area. The independent claims specifically require that "each of the user systems includes" certain features, including "displaying the object on the screen in a manner that the obtained owner identifier can be discriminated from owner identifiers of other objects". (See Claim 1)

The Office takes the position that Simonoff teaches "displaying the object on the screen in a manner that the obtained owner identifier can be discriminated from owner identifiers of other objects". (Office Action at 5) A review of the cited portion of Simonoff (Col. 18, lines 12-31), however, demonstrates all that is taught is the modification of certain attributes of objects ("a green border advantageously can be displayed around writeable text areas while a red border denotes read only text"). It is respectfully submitted that Simonoff falls short of present invention in that at a minimum there is no "owner identifier [which] can be discriminated from owner identifiers of other objects". Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied art does not anticipate the present invention because, at the very least, "[a]nticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under construction." W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, 721 F.2d 1540, 1554 (Fed. Cir. 1983); see also In re Marshall, 198 U.S.P.Q. 344, 346 (C.C.P.A. 1978).

The Office also rejected certain claims under 35 USC 103(a) over Simonoff in combination with various references, asserting "it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Simonoff to show superposing the owner identifier on an object" (Suda) and "it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Simonoff to show deleting the display of the

Atty. Docket No. JP919990027US1
(590.049)

owner identifier, o obtained object on the screen according to a timer operation" (Itakura).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Neither Suda nor Itakura, in combination with Simonoff, overcome the deficiencies of Simonoff discussed above. A 35 USC 103(a) rejection requires that the combined references provide both the motivation to combine the references and an expectation of success. There is, however, absolutely no teaching or suggestion in Suda or Itakura that would lead on of ordinary skill in the art to modify Simonoff to arrive at the present invention.

By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 8, 9, 15 and 16, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-7 and 10-14 are also presently allowable.

The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicant acknowledges that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant as to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicant will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

/

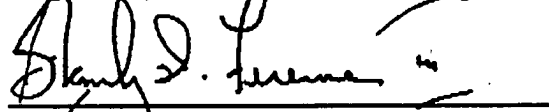
/

/

Atty. Docket No. JP919990027US1
(590.049)

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-16, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanley D. Ference III
Registration No. 33,879

Customer No. 35195
FERENCE & ASSOCIATES
400 Broad Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15143
(412) 741-8400
(412) 741-9292 - Facsimile

Attorneys for Applicant